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For further information about this booklet contact Charles Hobbs, editor, News Division, Office of Public Affairs, Room 406-A, U.S Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250 or call (202) 720-4026.

Testimony-

**Statement of Secretary of Agriculture
MIKE ESPY
before the Committee on Labor and Human Resources,
U.S. Senate, concerning the President's proposed
"National Service Trust Act of 1993"**

June 8, 1993

MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

It is an honor to represent President Clinton on the issue of national service -- a dramatically bold initiative that will reinvent the way government interacts with our citizens, and the way citizens interact with our government.

I find it a special honor to testify on this topic before you, Mr. Chairman, given your role in helping President Kennedy create the Peace Corps and your leadership in making Pennsylvania a model for how states and localities can promote youth service.

Mr. Chairman, as you know, Secretary Babbitt appeared before this Committee on May 11 and outlined the basic programmatic details of the Administration's national service initiative. Therefore, I will not repeat those details today, but will instead focus on the underlying civic philosophy behind this initiative, and how my own department -- the Department of Agriculture -- plans to put that philosophy into action.

How National Service Developed

In the years preceding this past Presidential election, then-Governor Clinton led a movement that was dedicated to reuniting the interests of the poor and the middle class by fashioning innovative new avenues of upward mobility. I was proud to have been a part of that movement.

We searched for fresh approaches to governing that would discard the failed and divisive ideologies of the old left and the old right, and would instead implement practical, real-world solutions for the unique new challenges of today.

We based our efforts on the idea that government should promote three fundamental principles: community, opportunity, and responsibility. One proposal more than any other -- voluntary national service -- embodied the very essence of each of those principles.

That's why, as a Member of the House of Representatives, I was so proud to have been an original co-sponsor of the National and Community Service Act of 1990, which Senator Kennedy, Senator Mikulski, Senator Pell, and others on this committee did so much to shape and move to final passage.

And that's why President Clinton has continued to adamantly insist that national service be a cornerstone of his Administration.

This Administration stands for many things, such as a comprehensive plan to make our economy competitive again, a fundamental overhaul of our health care system, and a new commitment to boosting rural America. But, just as importantly, we stand firmly, resolutely, and passionately for national service.

Community

Permit me for a minute to discuss the concept of community. This nation was founded, in the words of Benjamin Franklin, on the premise that "We must all hang together or we will most assuredly hang separately." A few decades later, a Frenchman touring the infant republic, Alexis de Tocqueville, wrote eloquently of how America was unique because its citizens banded together into voluntary organizations that worked for the common good.

Volunteers formed fire departments. They created granges. Built settlement houses. Started PTA's. It was the unbridled spirit of community service that made this the greatest nation on the planet.

National service brings us back to our origins as a nation. Properly executed, it will begin to tear down the walls that separate us. It will begin the process of giving all Americans a shared experience to which they can relate.

The armed forces continue to provide many American men with this joint experience. But as we reduce our armed forces in the aftermath of the cold war, we turn to national service as another way to forge bonds of "sweat equity" among all Americans, rich and poor, men and women.

Some mistakenly view national service as a jobs program targeted at the poor. Others mistakenly view the idea as a "noblesse oblige" feel-good scheme for the well-off. It is neither.

National service is a civic compact in which any citizen can be tied to the nation by the simple virtue of making a difference in the lives of others.

National service can play a large role in healing this nation's gaping racial, religious, social, and economic divisions.

When young people spend their time together planting a tree or cleaning out cockroaches from the apartment of a low income senior citizen or teaching younger children how to read, they simply don't have the time or the energy to hate each other. Not only that, with each wipe of their sweaty brows, they look into each other's eyes and increasingly come to the conclusion that they are as much alike as they are different.

That is why it would be such a mistake to turn national service into a targeted program just for the disadvantaged. Yes, we need new, innovative programs to help the less fortunate in society. My department is contemplating a wide variety of approaches to eradicate domestic hunger. This Administration is sponsoring an array of empowerment initiatives to combine opportunity with responsibility to help citizens lift themselves out of poverty. Such targeted programs have an important role, but national service will play a much different role. By engaging young people from all types of backgrounds, national service can make this country whole again.

This is not some utopian pipe dream. It is happening right now, right here in our national's capitol, with the D.C Service Corps. It is happening in the City Year youth service program in Boston. It is happening in the Los Angeles Conservation Corps. In fact, it is happening, in some form or another, in youth service programs now operating in each of our fifty states.

Because we believe in community, we believe in national service.

Opportunity

We also believe in opportunity -- the ability to advance in this society as far as your hard work, ingenuity, determination, and natural skills will take you. We don't believe in mandated outcomes in which all

Americans are guaranteed a high-paying job, a big house, two VCRs, and an easy life just because they were born. But we do believe that every American deserves his or her fair shake at earning his or her own slice of the American dream.

Lack of opportunity is not only morally wrong, but it is economically stupid. President Clinton often says that "we don't have a person to waste." He's absolutely right. The only way we can compete successfully in the new global economy is to make sure that our best and the brightest have a real chance to work their way to the top.

How many potential computer scientists and corporate executives and cancer researchers and automobile designers will spend today idling away on a street corner. That's just not smart economics.

One answer to this problem lies in the lessons of the original G.I. bill -- the most successful student aid system this nation ever created. The Clinton national service initiative is a new kind of G.I. bill -- based on the concept that Americans deserve a chance at upward mobility in return for significant service to their country.

It is true that national service is expensive, but it is not as expensive as the broken status quo. We now pay for Americans in prison, on welfare, in hospitals with gunshot wounds, and collecting unemployment. The question is whether we continue paying for only hardships, or whether we want to start investing in success.

Not only will national service benefit the individual participants, but it will also provide work that is of tangible value to urban, suburban, and rural communities throughout America. This work -- in schools, on public lands, in soup kitchens, on community policing patrols, for example -- will also promote opportunity for the citizens served.

Because we believe in opportunity, we believe in national service.

Responsibility

This President and this Administration also believe in responsibility. It is truly amazing how some on the extreme left and some on the extreme right have come to the startlingly similar conclusion that citizens owe nothing, absolutely nothing, to their society. Those on right believe that since government inevitably fails, government has no right to ask citizens for help. Those on the left believe that since an activist government always succeeds, it does not really need any help from the very citizens who will benefit from government programs.

This administration has a very different philosophy. Our philosophy believes that it is each American's responsibility to take advantage of this country's opportunities while avoiding its pitfalls. We believe it is this country's responsibility to make higher education available, but the responsibility of students and their families to make sure the students stay in school, study hard, and, by serving their community, earn the privilege to attend higher education.

America's young people don't want handouts and charity, they want a fair opportunity to make it on their own. Young Americans want more responsibility to become full participants in this society, and we agree with that aim.

National service will also promote responsibility at every level of society, because the success of this initiative rests squarely on the shoulders of non-profit agencies, corporations, states, and local community groups. This program will not be run by a large and burdensome Washington bureaucracy; rather it will be administered mostly by committed citizens at the local level.

And so, because we believe in responsibility, we believe in national service.

How USDA is Planning to Participate

President Clinton has made it absolutely clear to his Cabinet members that he wants every one of us to make national service a top priority. USDA has a long and proud history of running youth service programs, dating back as long as the Forest Service and the Soil Conservation Service played major roles in managing the original Civilian Conservation Corps. Today, the Forest service runs part of the Youth Conservation Corps, the Extension Service coordinates the 4-H system -- one of the largest youth service programs of its type in the world --- and the Soil Conservation Service manages the successful Earth Team volunteer program.

Given our track record of youth service leadership, we have tremendous resources to incorporate into the President's national service plan. I am very excited by our plans some of the possible service programs now being planned by my department.

While most of the service participants will be managed by non-profit organizations, private youth corps, and state and local governments, a small percentage may be managed directly by federal government Departments. Toward that end, I have directed my Department's Office of Public Liaison to head up a task force of all appropriate USDA agencies and offices to prepare three different proposals for possible incorporation into the President's national service program: a National Empowerment and Anti-Hunger Corps, a National Conservation Corps, and a National Rural Development Corps.

The National Empowerment and Anti-Hunger Corps members could work in urban and rural areas to help low-income families and individuals move towards self-sufficiency. The main focus of the Corps could be fighting domestic hunger. Corps members would help individuals apply for food stamps, WIC, and the school breakfast program; overhaul their diets; and learn to prevent food-borne illnesses. Corps members could also help implement the Administration's innovative anti-poverty empowerment agenda of expanded Earned Income Tax Credits, assets development programs, microenterprise loans, and community development banks.

The National Environmental Youth Corps, possibly managed in conjunction with the Interior Department and the Environmental Protection Agency, would have urban and rural components. Corps members could work on such projects as protecting our national forests and national, state, and municipal parks, promoting urban gardening, developing rural recreation areas, and teaching environmentally safe sustainable agriculture techniques.

The National Rural Development Corps could establish teams of "professional" and "paraprofessional" members who could assist communities in identifying needs and resources necessary for economic well-being. The Corps members could assist communities in locating financial resources, preparing proposals, designing educational programs, and implementing strategies necessary for revitalization. This Corps could consist of participants both older and more highly-educated than the other two Corps, and could directly lead to permanent careers in rural development.

If any or all of these proposals are eventually funded by the new Corporation for National Service, we hope to use our programs as models of reinventing government. They will be managed mostly by existing employees and will be entrepreneurial and non-bureaucratic in design.

Pilot programs will start in the fall of 1994 across America and will recruit the most diverse group of participants possible.

The President's goal is nothing short of creating a national service program so successful that it will become a permanent fixture of American society.

Why the Naysayers Are Wrong

Mr. Chairman, this President has real guts for proposing national service.

The Washington insiders who defend the failing status quo pontificated that Clinton would drop his national service campaign pledge as soon as he settled into the Beltway. After all, national service has no existing constituency. No major special interest exists that will benefit directly from national service. Its complicated to explain. Furthermore, the people most likely to benefit from national service don't even vote. Just drop the idea, advised the sufferers of permanent Potomac fever.

But the President stood by his vision. He kept talking about the issue wherever he went, he presented a specific and well thought-out legislative proposal, and he made it a top personal priority to include national service as an integral part of a budget proposal notable for its cuts in so many other areas.

Why, the naysayers ask, is this President so hell-bent on making national service a reality, against all political odds?

I think I know. In December of 1991, Bill Clinton visited a remarkable program in Boston called City Year. It is an incredible effort -- originally started with only private funding -- that brings together youths from backgrounds as diverse as anyone can imagine. African-American high school drop-outs from impoverished Roxbury work side-by-side with white students from elite suburban prep schools. Asian-Americans work next to Latinos and working-class Irish and Italian-Americans.

Bill Clinton met with a group of these young people and they looked straight into his eyes and poured their hearts out to him. One by one, they told him how their national service experience had absolutely transformed their lives. How City Year took them off the streets, expanded their understanding and respect of others, and gave many of them a sense of purpose for the first time in their short lives.

On that day, national service for Bill Clinton was transformed from an intellectual abstraction to the most deeply-felt passion.

I had similar feelings when I recently visited the Van Ness Elementary School in Southeast Washington, along with USDA employees who volunteer countless hours tutoring students. When those children looked up at looked at me, I saw in their eyes rare glimmers of hope for the future. I understood immediately why this President will not rest until national service helps give all Americans that hope.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Although I must unfortunately leave shortly to attend a previously scheduled event, I look forward to answering any questions you may have.



News Releases-

Release No. 0448.93

Sean Adams (301) 344-2723

Leslie Parker (202) 720-4026

THREE BREEDERS SELECTED TO PROPAGATE MITE-RESISTANT QUEENS

WASHINGTON, June 7--Three honey bee breeders have been selected to propagate new Yugoslavian bees that have resistance to two damaging mites, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced.

The Yugoslavian bees, *Apis mellifera carnica*, are the first insects that USDA's Agricultural Research Service has ever released for breeding, said Thomas F. Rinderer, who heads the agency's Honey Bee Breeding, Genetics and Physiology Laboratory in Baton Rouge, La.

The three companies will maintain the Yugoslavian bee stock and sell breeder queens to queen producers, Rinderer said. The lab will send about 40 queens to each company--Hybri-Bees, Inc. of LaBelle, Fla., Taber's Honey Bee Genetics of Vacaville, Calif., and John Klapac & Co. of Frederick, Md. They were selected by a Stock Release Panel comprised of ARS and industry representatives.

Rinderer said the three will rear breeder queens that can pass along resistance to varroa and tracheal mites. "These queens will be sold to queen breeders. We've already had more than 100 queen breeders express interest in buying them," Rinderer said.

The Yugoslavian bees--designated ARS-Y-C-1--have been under study since 1984 in a joint project between ARS scientists and researchers in the former Yugoslavia. The bees were first quarantined in this country in 1989 and later reared for field tests before being released to the three breeders.

The bees are twice as resistant to varroa mites as susceptible domestic bees, but would still require some chemicals to control severe outbreaks of varroa mites, Rinderer said.

But the Yugoslavian bees are so resistant to tracheal mites that chemical controls for that pest probably would not be needed. He estimated that the resistant stock could save beekeepers \$2 per colony in tracheal mite treatments.

Domestic bees are susceptible to the two mites that have caused extensive losses since they were discovered in the United States in the mid-1980s. The mites are considered a serious agricultural threat because bees pollinate billions of dollars worth of crops each year as they move among plants in search of nectar and pollen.

Three chemicals are registered to control the mites: menthol and amitraz for tracheal mites, and fluvalinate for varroa. A fourth chemical, formic acid, is pending approval for use against both mites.

Queen breeders interested in buying breeder queens of the new stock can contact the companies at the following addresses:

Hybri-Bees, Inc., 471 N. Lee Street, LaBelle, Fla. 33935; Taber's Honey Bee Genetics, P.O. Box 1672, Vacaville, Ca. 95696; and John Klapac & Co., 5016 Shookstown Road, Frederick, Md. 21702.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: *For details, contact Thomas F. Rinderer, Honey Bee Breeding, Genetics, and Physiology Research Laboratory, USDA, ARS, 1157 Ben Hur Road, Baton Rouge, La. 70894. Telephone (504) 766-6064.*

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Release No. 0451.93
Steve Lombardi (202) 720-9113
Cordelia Morris (510) 273-6255

OAKLAND PUBLIC HEARING TO ADDRESS FUTURE OF MEAT AND POULTRY INSPECTION

WASHINGTON, June 7--Several top U.S. Department of Agriculture officials will participate in a public hearing on Wednesday, June 9, in Oakland, Calif., on plans to modernize the federal meat and poultry inspection program.

"The hearing will give the people of California and the surrounding states an opportunity to attend and to participate in this project of immense scope and importance to the health and welfare of the nation," said Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy, who has directed USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service and Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to prepare a USDA plan for reducing pathogens.

Several members of Congress are expected to attend along with the USDA officials.

Oakland is located in the FSIS Western Region, one of five USDA meat inspection regions in the United States. The region includes the states of Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming, as well as American Samoa, Guam, and the Northern Marianas Islands. The Western Region has 1,448 federally inspected plants and 1,047 federal meat inspectors. Its regional headquarters is in Alameda, Calif.

The Oakland hearing is the fourth in a series of six such events planned throughout the country to seek public input on the proposed two-track strategic plan for inspection reform. The first three

hearings were set in Dallas; Seattle; and Des Moines, Iowa. Upcoming hearings will take place in Atlanta on June 11 and Philadelphia on June 18.

"We strongly encourage interested individuals and groups to give us feedback on our efforts to modernize and reform the federal meat and poultry inspection system. The comments and suggestions from the hearings will be crucial to the agency as we move forward with our inspection reform efforts," Espy said. "We are seeking as much participation as possible from those representing a wide spectrum of views."

FSIS is implementing the inspection reform plan ordered by Espy under two tracks. Track I of the plan consists of an immediate program to maximize the performance of the current meat and poultry inspection system. The cornerstone of Track I is a program to reduce pathogens. Track II consists of the development of the regulatory program of the future.

Espy has taken several other steps taken to strengthen and reform federal meat and poultry inspection, including:

- Requesting an additional \$8 million in the 1994 USDA budget to fund the start of a strategic plan for meat inspection reform, including the acceleration of the two-track pathogen reduction plan.
- Ordering an inspection crack-down on meat plants across the nation, based on surprise reviews of in-plant inspection systems. As a result of this crack-down, Espy ordered 30 plants closed temporarily until inspection procedures are brought into compliance with requirements. Espy has further directed FSIS to continue these special reviews throughout the year.
- Requiring care and handling labels on meat and poultry products.
- Mandating that the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point system be required in all meat and poultry plants.
- Hiring 160 additional new meat inspectors, and announcing intentions to add 40 more next year.
- Proposing the collection of \$103 million in new user fees from the industry.
- Directing FSIS to develop a legislative proposal by mid-July that would enable USDA to have better trace-back capabilities from processing plants to farms.
- Accelerating efforts to develop rapid microbiological tests for in-plant use.
- Meeting with whistle-blowers, consumer groups, industry representatives, and food poisoning victims to solicit input on all facets of the federal meat and poultry inspection system.

Requests to testify at the Oakland hearing should be submitted to Glenda Petterson at (510) 273-7402. The hearing will be held from 9 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. at the Parc Oakland Hotel, 1001 Broadway, in Oakland.

Copies of the agency's strategic plan and the USDA pathogen reduction program are available by contacting the FSIS Public Awareness Office, Room 1165 South Building, Washington, D.C. 20250; telephone (202) 690-0351.



Release No. 0452.93

Sean Adams (301) 344-2723

Leslie Parker (202) 720-4026

USDA LICENSE ISSUED ON NEW CLASS OF INSECTICIDES

WASHINGTON, June 8--A Georgia company is developing a new class of insecticides based on patents awarded to U.S. Department of Agriculture scientists.

The effectiveness of fluorosulfonates as insecticides was discovered in the early 1980s by Vander Meer, Clifford Lofgren and David Williams at the agency's Medical and Veterinary Entomology Research Laboratory in Gainesville, Fla.

Robert K. Vander Meer, a chemist with USDA's Agricultural Research Service, said the second patent granted earlier this year increases the number of potential insecticides that can be developed by Griffin Corp. of Valdosta, Ga.

The insecticides, called fluorosulfonates, are effective against cockroaches, ants, termites and other insects that live in groups or colonies, Vander Meer said. Fluorosulfonates are synthetic compounds originally used to disperse chemicals in oil, water or other formulations.

Griffin Corp., which holds an exclusive license from ARS, issued a sublicense last year to FMC of Chicago, Ill., to develop and produce compounds originally based on the first patent. FMC expects to produce five or six products over the next few years.

The compounds work against pests that live in groups or colonies because "they're what we call delayed-action insecticides," Vander Meer said.

"It takes about 24 hours before they start to kill the insects. That's enough time for the worker insects--about five percent of the total colony--to bring the insecticide back to the nest," he said.

"Insects have to ingest the fluorosulfonates to be killed by them," Vander Meer said. Lab and field tests were run on cockroaches, ants and other insects for several years at Gainesville.

"A key advantage of the fluorosulfonates is that they will kill more than 90 percent of targeted insects at very low dosages," he said. Also, lab studies found that the compounds have low toxicity to humans and other mammals, he said, and would be primarily used in baits or traps.

Vander Meer and his colleagues discovered the insecticidal action of fluorosulfonates when they used some of them to help form experimental insecticides for fire ants. "We discovered during experiments that the fluorosulfonates alone had the sought after delayed toxicity against fire ants," he said.

Under a sublicense from Griffin, S.C. Johnson of Milwaukee, Wis., earlier produced baits for controlling household ants and cockroaches. The baits contain a fluorosulfonate called sulfluramid. The Environmental Protection Agency approved sulfluramid's use in the products.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: *For details, contact Robert K. Vander Meer, Medical and Veterinary Entomology Research Lab, USDA, ARS, 1700 S.W. 23rd Drive, Gainesville, Fla. 32608. Telephone (904) 374-5918.*

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Release No. 0453.93
Steve Kinsella (202) 720-4623

ESPY SAYS NATIONAL SERVICE PLAN COULD HEAL NATION'S WOUNDS

WASHINGTON, June 8--Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy today told the Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources that the Administration's National Service Plan could bridge the racial and social gaps in America.

"When young people spend their time together planting a tree or cleaning out cockroaches from the apartment of a low-income senior citizen or teaching younger children how to read, they simply don't have the time or the energy to hate each other," Espy said. "Properly executed, national service will begin to tear down the walls that separate us."

The secretary called the Clinton plan a "bold initiative that will reinvent the way government interacts with our citizens, and the way citizens interact with our government."

National service would create a domestic Peace Corps that would bring diverse participants together to tackle pressing national problems.

Participants would earn a stipend for educational use in return for two years of service.

Espy told the Senate panel that government should promote community, opportunity, and responsibility and that National Service embodies "the very essence of those principles."

The Agriculture Secretary also unveiled three proposals being developed by USDA in anticipation of the passage of the National Service bill: a National Empowerment and Anti-Hunger Corps, a National Environmental Youth Corps, and the National Rural Development Corps. "We hope to use our programs as models of reinventing government," Espy told the Committee. "They will be managed mostly by existing employees and will be entrepreneurial and non-bureaucratic in design."

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Release No. 0455.93
Ed Curlett (301) 436-7255
Diane O'Connor (202) 720-4026

USDA EXTENDING COMMENT PERIOD FOR MEDITERRANEAN FRUIT FLY DRAFT STATEMENT

WASHINGTON, June 8--The U.S. Department of Agriculture has extended to June 18 the deadline for public comments on the Mediterranean Fruit Fly Cooperative Eradication Program Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

"In response to a number of requests, we are reopening and extending the comment period to give interested persons additional time to prepare and submit comments," said Lonnie J. King, acting administrator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

The draft analyzes potential environmental effects of a program to eradicate the Medfly from the continental United States. Consideration will be given only to comments received on or before June 18. The original deadline for comments was May 24.

An original and three copies of comments should be sent to Harold T. Smith, branch chief, Environmental Analysis and Documentation, BBEP, APHIS, USDA, Room 543 Federal Building, 6505 Belcrest Road, Hyattsville, Md. 20782. Comments should refer to docket number 90-108-3.

Comments received may be reviewed at the APHIS Reading Room 1141 South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C., between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Copies of the draft environmental impact statement are available by writing to Harold Smith at the above address or to the following offices: USDA, APHIS, PPQ, 9580 Micron Avenue, Suite I, Sacramento, Calif. 95827; USDA, APHIS, PPQ, 3505 25th Avenue, Building 1, North, Gulfport, Miss. 39501; USDA, APHIS, PPQ, 3505 Boca Chica Boulevard, Suite 360, Brownsville, Texas 78521; USDA, APHIS, PPQ, Blason II, 1st floor, 505 South Lanola Road, Moorestown, N.J. 08057.



Release No. 0457.93
Steve Lombardi (202) 720-9113
Mike Grout (404) 347-2906

ATLANTA PUBLIC HEARING TO ADDRESS FUTURE OF MEAT AND POULTRY INSPECTION

WASHINGTON, June 8--Several top U.S. Department of Agriculture officials will participate in a public hearing on Friday, June 11, in Atlanta on plans to modernize the federal meat and poultry inspection program.

"The hearing will give the people of Georgia and surrounding states an opportunity to attend and to participate in this project of immense scope and importance to the health and welfare of the nation," said Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy, who directed the USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service and Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to prepare plans for reducing pathogens.

Several members of Congress are expected to attend along with top USDA officials.

Atlanta is the location of FSIS' Southeastern Regional Office. That office oversees 1,039 federally inspected plants and supervises 2,164 federal meat inspection personnel in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Northwestern Virginia, West Virginia, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.

The hearing is the fifth of six such events planned throughout the country to seek public input on the proposed two-track strategic plan for inspection reform. The first four meetings were set in Dallas; Seattle; Des Moines, Iowa; and Oakland, Calif. The last hearing will take place in Philadelphia on June 18.

"We strongly encourage interested individuals and groups to give us feedback on our efforts to modernize and reform the federal meat and poultry inspection system. The comments and suggestions from the hearings will be crucial to the agency as we move forward with our inspection reform efforts," Espy said. "We are seeking as much participation as possible from those representing a wide spectrum of views."

FSIS is implementing the inspection reform plan ordered by Espy under two tracks. Track I consists of an immediate program to maximize the performance of the current meat and poultry inspection system. The cornerstone of Track I is a program to reduce pathogens. Track II consists of the development of a regulatory program for the future.

Espy has also taken several other steps to strengthen and reform federal meat and poultry inspection, including:

- Requesting an additional \$8 million in the 1994 USDA budget to fund the start of a strategic plan for meat inspection reform, including the acceleration of the two-track pathogen reduction plan.

- Ordering an inspection crack-down on meat plants across the nation, based on surprise reviews of in-plant inspection systems. As a result of this crack-down, Espy ordered 30 plants closed temporarily until inspection procedures are brought into compliance with requirements. Espy has further directed FSIS to continue these special reviews throughout the year.

- Requiring care and handling labels on meat and poultry products.

- Mandating that the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point system be required in all meat and poultry plants.

- Hiring 160 additional new meat inspectors, and announcing intentions to add 40 more next year.

- Proposing the collection of \$103 million in new user fees from the industry.

- Directing FSIS to develop a legislative proposal by mid-July that would enable USDA to have better trace-back capabilities from processing plants to farms.

- Accelerating efforts to develop rapid microbiological tests for in-plant use.

- Meeting with whistle-blowers, consumer groups, industry representatives, and food poisoning victims to solicit input on all facets of the federal meat and poultry inspection system.

Requests to testify at the Atlanta hearing should be submitted to Dorothy Windham at (404) 347-3911. The hearing will be held from 9 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. at the Radisson Hotel, Courtland and International Boulevard, in Atlanta.

Copies of the Agency's strategic plan and the USDA pathogen reduction program are available by contacting the FSIS Public Awareness Office, Room 1165 South Building, Washington, D.C. 20250; telephone (202) 690-0351.



Release No. 0458.93

Steve Kinsella (202) 720-4623

Mary Dixon (202) 720-4623

USDA HOLDS LARGEST FEDERAL ANTI-HUNGER FORUM SINCE 1960'S

ESPY: "PRESIDENT CLINTON AND I ARE COMMITTED TO REFORMING OUR NUTRITION PROGRAMS SO AS TO BETTER REACH THOSE WHO ARE IN NEED AND TO PROMOTE SELF-SUFFICIENCY."

WASHINGTON, June 8--Two former secretaries of agriculture will join Secretary Mike Espy at the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Hunger Forum on June 17, which will include more than 70 panelists.

Bob Bergland, former secretary of agriculture under President Carter, and John Block, former secretary of agriculture under President Reagan, will be among the participants who also include: Marian Wright Edleman, founder and president of the Children's Defense Fund; former Senator George McGovern, chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs and principle architect of federal nutrition programs; St. Paul Mayor James Scheibel, chair of the U.S. Conference of Mayors Task force on Hunger and Homelessness; and David Ellwood, assistant secretary of Health and Human Services for Planning and Evaluation.

"We hope to organize the largest hunger forum by any administration since the 1960's," said Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy. "We can and we must do better as we address the hunger needs

of Americans all across the country. President Clinton and I are committed to reforming our nutrition programs to better reach those who are in need and to promote self-sufficiency."

The National Hunger Forum will be from 9 a.m. till 5 p.m. at the Andrew W. Mellon Auditorium on Constitution Avenue N.W. between 12th and 14th Sts., N.W. A news conference is scheduled immediately following the forum.

The forum will include four panels of participants focusing on a wide range of issues surrounding hunger in America. The topics for the four panels will be:

*Extent and Consequences of Hunger: Connections to Poverty, Health, Education and Community Development.

*Access to a Healthy Diet: Breaking Down Barriers.

*Taking control: Empowerment and Self Sufficiency.

*Agenda for the Future: Priorities for Change.

"We hope to promote an understanding of the extent and nature of hunger in America, the government's role in addressing the problem and public-private partnerships," said Ellen Haas, assistant secretary of agriculture for food and consumer services and lead organizer of the forum. "We also will discuss concrete policy options as we reinvent our nutrition programs to better serve the needy and promote self-sufficiency."

Some of the participants will be:

***Robert Fersh**, executive director of the Food Research and Action Center (FRAC). Fersh will discuss the unmet needs that persist despite the array of nutrition programs currently in existence and examination of what these services are failing to provide.

***Larry Brown**, director of the Center on Hunger, Poverty and Nutrition Policy at Tufts University. Brown will discuss the realities of experiencing hunger, particularly children.

***Lee Swensen**, president of the National Farmers Union. Swensen will discuss the development of a national food agenda that links food production with nutrition policy.

***Ellen Schuster**, education coordinator for the Minnesota Cooperative Extension Service. Schuster will discuss literacy and nutrition education interventions that enable low-income parents to improve the health and nutrition status of their children.

***Gary Burtless**, senior fellow with the Economic Department of the Brookings Institution. Burtless will discuss issues surrounding the working poor and persistent barriers that hinder their pursuit of economic and nutrition security.

***David Beckmann**, president, Bread For The World. Beckmann will discuss the extent to which religious organizations have attempted to fill unmet needs.

***Christine Vladimoriff**, president and chief executive officer of Second Harvest. Vladimoriff will discuss the role of emergency food outlets. ***Ron Pollack**, founder of FRAC and executive director of Families USA. Pollack will discuss health care reform and its relationship to hunger and poverty.

***Shiriki Kumanyika**, epidemiologist, Penn State College of Medicine. Kumanyika will discuss the difficult choices that low-income people are forced to make in determining diets and the health consequences resulting from these selections.

***David Maywhoor**, executive director, Ohio Hunger Task Force. Maywhoor will discuss the federal and state policies that exacerbate the food insecurity problems of low-income households and that penalize the efforts of those seeking to escape poverty.

***Alan Rosenfeld**, acting co-director of Public Voice for Food and Health Policy. Rosenfeld will discuss access to healthy, affordable food for low-income populations and commodities used in meal programs.

***Linda Eisenberg**, executive director, Maryland Food Committee. Eisenberg will discuss the importance of community-based support networks that provide low-income people with the guidance and tools to break the poverty cycle.

***Robert Greenstein**, founder and executive director, Center On Budget and Policy Priorities. Greenstein, former administrator of the Food and Nutrition Service under President Carter, will examine where federal food and income security programs have fallen short and the direction that must be taken for purposes of reinvesting in the human infrastructure.

***Cary Israel**, chairman of the Board of the Community College for the State of Illinois in Chicago. Israel will discuss the link between education and empowerment.



Release No. 0459.93
Steve Kinsella (202) 720-4623
Mary Dixon (202) 720-4623

ESPY AND HAAS TO TOUR NUTRITION SITES IN WEST VIRGINIA AND CALIFORNIA IN PREPARATION OF NATIONAL HUNGER FORUM

WASHINGTON, June 8--Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy and Assistant Secretary for Food and Consumer Services Ellen Haas will apply for food stamps in West Virginia to better understand the government program from the participant's perspective. Haas will also conduct a neighborhood meeting on hunger in San Francisco.

The June 10 event in San Francisco and the June 14 event in West Virginia are scheduled to lead up to a National Forum on Hunger on June 17 in Washington, D.C., at the Andrew W. Mellon Auditorium on Constitution Avenue between 12th and 14th Streets, N.W. The hunger forum, the largest federally sponsored meeting on hunger since the 1960's, has been called by Espy to establish an aggressive agenda for USDA to help end hunger in America.

"We can and we must do better to fight hunger in America," said Espy. "During the forum we hope to discuss new strategies so we can rethink how we fight hunger."

More than 70 panelists from around the country, including those facing hunger, academics, advocates, policy experts, farmers, administration and local government leaders will participate.

Two events scheduled preceding the forum include:

* June 10, 2:30 p.m., San Francisco. Haas will conduct a neighborhood meeting on hunger at the Mission Neighborhood Center, 362 Capp Street. Haas, who oversees the USDA's \$38 billion food assistance programs, will meet with Mission District residents and food program staff members to listen to their views and answer questions.

* June 14, 9:40 a.m., Martinsburg and Ranson, W. Va. Espy and Haas will participate in a mock application process for food stamps at the Berkeley County Food Stamp Certification Office, 1600 Virginia Avenue, Martinsburg. They will discuss the process with participants and USDA employees.

They will then travel to nearby Ranson where they will eat with about 50 senior citizens at the Jefferson County Council on Aging, 103 West Fifth Avenue. They will also discuss hunger issues concerning the elderly.

Both events are open to the media.

"We are looking to reform our nutrition programs," Espy said. "Assistant Secretary Haas and myself are determined to open up policy decisions to the folks on the front lines all across the country."



Release No. 0460.93
Bruce Merkle (202) 720-8206
Phil Villa-Lobos (202) 720-4026

USDA ANNOUNCES 1993-CROP CORN, GRAIN SORGHUM AND SOYBEANS COUNTY LOAN RATES

WASHINGTON, June 9--The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corporation today announced county price support loan and purchase rates for the 1993 crops of corn, grain sorghum and soybeans.

The 1993-crop price support rates were determined in accordance with the Agricultural Act of 1949, as amended and reflect changes in the national average price support rates.

Some county rates were adjusted to reflect location and transportation costs. These adjustments were limited to a three percent change in addition to the change in the national average price support levels from the 1992-crop price support levels.

Copies of the rate schedules are available from: Tom Fink, Cotton, Grain and Rice Price Support Division, USDA/ASCS, P.O. Box 2415, Washington D.C. 20013; tel: (202) 720-8701.



Release No. 0461.93
Sally Klusaritz (202) 720-3448
Arthur Whitmore (202) 720-4026

U.S. TO DONATE AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES FOR USE IN RUSSIA

WASHINGTON, June 9--The United States will donate \$20 million worth of U.S. agricultural commodities for use in Russia, according to Christopher E. Goldthwait, acting general sales manager for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agricultural Service.

Catholic Relief Services, a private U.S. voluntary organization, will distribute 9,850 metric tons of commodities, including 5,000 tons of vegetable oil; 2,850 metric tons of wheat flour; 1,000 tons of infant formula; and 500 tons each of jarred baby food and farina. These foods will be distributed to pensioners, invalids, young children and pregnant mothers.

An additional 5,100 tons of butteroil will be sold by Catholic Relief Services in the areas of Khabarovskiy and Primorskiy Krays. Proceeds from the sales will be used to support programs for health care, the disabled and agribusiness. Funds also will be used to improve the Department of Social Protection in the Russian Far East.

The donation will be made under the Food For Progress program and Section 416(b) of the Agricultural Act of 1949. The programs are administered by USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service.

The supply period of the donation is fiscal 1993.

For more information, contact James F. Keefer, FAS, (202) 720-5263.



Release No. 0462.93
Becky Unkenholz (202) 720-8998
Arthur Whitmore (202) 720-4026

NATIONAL ORGANIC STANDARDS BOARD TO MEET JULY 8-11

WASHINGTON, June 9--The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) will meet July 8-11 in Cottage Grove, Ore., at the Best Western Village Green Resort Hotel, 725 Row River Road.

The meeting will allow the NOSB's six working committees--Crops Standards; Processing, Labeling and Packaging; Livestock Standards; Accreditation; National Materials List; and International Issues--to work on recommendations that will be presented to the secretary of agriculture following approval by the full board.

Topics covered at the meeting will include the development of a list of approved and prohibited substances for use in processing; accreditation requirements and criteria for certifying agents; livestock production practices; import requirements; and organic crop production standards.

All meetings will be open to the public. A public input session will be held July 8 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

The NOSB was appointed in January 1992 to advise USDA on the best ways to implement the National Organic Certification Program mandated by the 1990 Farm Bill.

Individuals and organizations who wish to provide written comments on organic issues or to speak at the public input session should contact Dr. Harold S. Ricker, Staff Director, NOSB, Transportation and Marketing Division, Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA, Room 4006-S, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456; telephone (202) 720-2704.



Release No. 0463.93

Alicia L. Ford (202) 720-8998

Arthur Whitmore (202) 720-4026

USDA PROPOSES CHANGES IN ASSESSMENTS FOR COTTON RESEARCH AND PROMOTION PROGRAM

WASHINGTON, June 9--The U.S. Department of Agriculture is proposing to amend assessment provisions of the Cotton Research and Promotion Program.

L.P. Massaro, acting administrator of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, said the proposal would lower the value of imported cotton that is specified by the Cotton Board rules and regulations for the purpose of calculating assessments on imported cotton and imported cotton-containing products.

The proposed change is an annual update of the value of imported cotton and would reflect the most recent annual average price received by U.S. farmers for Upland cotton.

Since the average price has fallen slightly from the previous calendar year, the value of imported cotton would be reduced to coincide. This would result in slightly reduced assessments on imported cotton and cotton-containing products. The change would be in effect until the next year's scheduled update.

Details of the proposal appeared in the June 8 Federal Register. Comments should be sent to Craig Shackelford, Cotton Division, AMS, USDA, P.O. Box 96456, Rm. 2641-S, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456. Copies of the Federal Register notice are available from Shackelford at (202) 720-2259.



Release No. 0464.93

Marti Asner (703) 235-4419

Arthur Whitmore (202) 720-4026

USDA'S BIOTECHNOLOGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO MEET JUNE 29-30

WASHINGTON, June 11--The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Biotechnology Research Advisory Committee will meet June 29-30 in Research Triangle Park, N.C., to discuss transgenic animals, aquatic biotechnology, and societal issues related to food and biotechnology. The public is encouraged to attend and participate.

The meeting will be in the Board of Director's Room, Conference and Education Facility, North Carolina Biotechnology Center, 15 T.W. Alexander Drive, Research Triangle Park, N.C. 27709-3547. It begins at 3 p.m. on June 29 and will adjourn at about 5:30. On June 30, members will meet at 9 a.m. to about 4 p.m.

For more information or to file written comments before or after the meeting, contact Dr. Alvin L. Young, executive secretary, Agricultural Biotechnology Research Advisory Committee, Office of Agricultural Biotechnology, USDA, Room 1001, RPE, 14th and Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-2200; telephone (703) 235-4419.



Release No. 0466.93

Becky Unkenholz (202) 720-8998

Diane O'Connor (202) 720-4026

FLUE-CURED TOBACCO ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO MEET JUNE 25

WASHINGTON, June 9--The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Flue-Cured Tobacco Advisory Committee will meet June 25 in Raleigh, N.C.

L.P. Massaro, acting administrator of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, said the committee will discuss market opening dates, selling schedules and other related matters for the 1993 marketing season.

The 39-member committee, established by the secretary of agriculture, provides information essential to the orderly marketing of flue-cured tobacco. It also recommends opening dates and selling schedules for the flue-cured tobacco-growing regions from Virginia to Florida.

The meeting, which is open to the public, will begin at 10 a.m. in the Flue-Cured Tobacco Cooperative Stabilization Building, 1306 Annapolis Drive. Anyone wishing to address the committee should contact the Director, Tobacco Division, AMS, USDA, Box Ag 0280, Washington, D.C. 20250-0280; telephone (202) 205-0567.

Written statements may be submitted to the same address, before or after the meeting, or given to the committee chairperson at the meeting.

Notice of the meeting was published in the June 7 Federal Register.



Release No. 0467.93
Becky Unkenholz (202) 720-8998
Diane O'Connor (202) 720-4026

BURLEY TOBACCO ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO MEET JULY 1

WASHINGTON, June 9--The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Burley Tobacco Advisory Committee will meet July 1 in Lexington, Ky.

L.P. Massaro, acting administrator of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, said the committee will review Tobacco Inspection Act regulations and discuss the calculations of sales opportunity, the policies and procedures for the 1993-94 marketing season and other related issues.

The 39-member committee, established by the secretary of agriculture, provides information essential to the orderly marketing of burley tobacco and recommends opening dates and selling schedules for the burley tobacco-growing regions from Missouri to Virginia.

The meeting, which is open to the public, will begin at 10 a.m. at the Campbell House Inn, North Colonial Hall, 1375 Harrodsburg Road. Those wishing to address the committee should contact the Director, Tobacco Division, AMS, Ag Box 0280, Washington, D.C. 20250-0280; telephone (202) 205-0567.

Written comments may be submitted to the same address before or after the meeting, or may be left with the chairman of the advisory committee at the meeting.

Notice of the meeting was published in the June 7 Federal Register. Copies are available from the above address.



Release No. 0468.93
Mary Dixon (202) 720-4623
Dee Amaden (415) 705-1311

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE HAAS TO CONDUCT MEETING IN SAN FRANCISCO

WASHINGTON, June 9--Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Food and Consumer Services Ellen Haas will conduct a neighborhood meeting on hunger at 2:30 p.m., Thursday, June 10, at the Mission Neighborhood Center, 362 Capp St.

Haas, who oversees the U.S. Department of Agriculture's \$38 billion food assistance programs, will meet with Mission District residents and food program staff members to listen to their views and concerns.

The meeting, which is open to the media, precedes the National Forum on Hunger June 17 in Washington, D.C.



Release No. 0471.93
Clarence Steinberg (202) 720-6179
Arthur Whitmore (202) 720-4026

ESPY NAMES MEMBERS TO THE NEW MUSHROOM COUNCIL

WASHINGTON, June 10--Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy today announced the appointment of nine mushroom producers to a mushroom council to administer the new National Mushroom Promotion and Research Program.

Appointed to represent the major U.S. mushroom production regions are:

-- Region 1 (23 New England, Midwestern and Western states): Wilhelm W. Meya, Hanover, Conn. (term expires Dec. 31, 1994); and Robert E. Miller, Reading, Pa. (term expires Dec. 31, 1995).

-- Region 2 (six Middle Atlantic states plus the District of Columbia): Michael L. Pia, Chadds Ford, Pa. (term expires Dec. 31, 1994); Edward A. Leo, Kennett Square, Pa. (term expires Dec. 31, 1995); and James J. Ciarrocchi, Landenberg, Pa. (term expires Dec. 31, 1996).

-- Region 3 (seven Western states, Alaska and Hawaii): William K. Street, Tacoma, Wash. (term expires Dec. 31, 1994); Cecil D. Tanner, Watsonville, Calif., (term expires Dec. 31, 1995); and John D. Haltom, Jackson, Tenn. (term expires Dec. 31, 1996).

-- Region 4 (12 Southeastern and Southwestern states): Virgil H. Jurgensmeyer, Miami, Okla. (term expires Dec. 31, 1996).

Terms of office for initial council members are staggered to provide administrative continuity. In each subsequent year, approximately one-third of the council will be appointed for three-year terms of office.

Espy selected the appointees from a group of nominees forwarded from regional nomination meetings in February.

Authorized under the Mushroom Promotion, Research, and Consumer Information Act of 1990, the council will administer a national promotion, research, and consumer information program to maintain and expand markets and uses for fresh mushrooms. The program will be funded by an assessment paid by persons who annually produce or import an average of more than 500,000 pounds of mushrooms.

The council's first meeting will begin at 8:30 a.m. on June 24 in Room 107-A at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, 14th and Independence, S.W., Washington, D.C. The meeting is open to the public.

USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service will monitor operations of the council.



Release No. 0473.93
Steve Kinsella (202) 720-4623
Mary Dixon (202) 720-4623

FIVE "FACES OF HUNGER" WILL PARTICIPATE AT NATIONAL HUNGER FORUM

Government Program Participants Speak Out for Reform

WASHINGTON, June 10--The National Hunger Forum, the largest federally sponsored hunger symposium since the 1960's, will include testimony from five government program recipients.

The forum will be Thursday, June 17, from 9 a.m. till 5 p.m. at the Andrew W. Mellon Auditorium on Constitution Avenue between 12th and 14th Streets, N.W. Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy is convening the forum to establish an aggressive agenda for USDA to help end hunger in America.

"We hope to hear from policy makers and advocates at the hunger forum, but we also want to hear from the participants in government programs," said Espy. "The participants are acutely aware about how we should reform government programs and how we can better serve the needy."

Said Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Food and Consumer Services Ellen Haas, lead organizer of the forum: "We hope to promote an understanding of the extent and nature of hunger in America, the government's role in addressing the problem and public-private partnerships. We also will discuss

concrete policy options as we reinvent our nutrition programs to better serve the needy and promote self-sufficiency."

Among the more than 70 panelists at the forum will be five "faces of hunger," or government program recipients. Following are their profiles:

Michael Feather, 33, of Yellow Spring, W. Va., is married with three children. He works at the Wardensville Police Department but his family must still rely on food stamps to have access to nutritious meals. As representative of the working poor, he will address asset accumulation, housing costs, and the importance of reliable transportation to gain and maintain secure employment.

Elaine Mc Fadden, 37, of Riverside, Calif., is a divorced mother of two. She will discuss how federal programs need to change to help food stamp recipients become empowered and achieve economic self-sufficiency.

Rosaline Spotted Eagle, 55, of Kyle, S.D., is a single mother with a daughter and grandchild living at home. She will discuss how a microenterprise program in South Dakota is enabling her to start her own business and continue to receive food stamps for one year so she does not have the false choice of working or feeding her family. She will discuss how a demonstration microenterprise program has empowered her and is helping her work her way off food stamps.

Christina Ramirez, 19, of Albuquerque, N.M., is a single mother. She will discuss the extent and consequences of hunger, focusing on the public's perception of food stamp participants. She will discuss the problems that teen parents face and her disappointment having to spend down her savings for college in order for her family to receive food stamps.

Andrea Lincoln, 26, of Smithville, Texas, is a single mother of three children. She will discuss the problems of access for the rural poor, addressing transportation constraints and the inaccessibility of government services.

The five "faces of hunger" will join academics, advocates, policy experts, farmers, and administration and local government leaders during the forum, which will feature four groups of panelists.

The topics for the four panels are:

- Extent and Consequences of Hunger: Connections to Poverty, Agriculture, Health, Education and Community Development.
- Access to a Healthy Diet: Breaking Down Barriers.
- Taking Control: Empowerment and Self-Sufficiency.
- Agenda for the Future: Priorities for Change.



Release No. 0474.93

Steve Kinsella (202) 720-4623

Steve Lombardi (202) 720-9113

PHILADELPHIA PUBLIC HEARING TO ADDRESS FUTURE OF MEAT AND POULTRY INSPECTION

WASHINGTON, June 11--Several top U.S. Department of Agriculture officials will participate in a public hearing on Friday, June 18, in Philadelphia on plans to modernize the federal meat and poultry inspection program.

"The hearing will give the people of Pennsylvania and surrounding states an opportunity to attend and to participate in this project of immense scope and importance to the health and welfare of the nation," said Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy, who directed the USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service and Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to prepare plans for reducing pathogens as a response to this winter's outbreak of foodborne illness in several western states.

Several members of Congress are expected to attend along with USDA officials.

Philadelphia is the location of FSIS' Northeastern Regional Office. That office oversees 1,909 federally inspected plants and supervises 1,257 federal meat inspection personnel in Connecticut, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Virginia.

The Philadelphia hearing is the last of six such events planned throughout the country to seek public input on the proposed two-track strategic plan for inspection reform. The first five meetings were set in Dallas; Seattle; Des Moines, Iowa; Oakland, Calif.; and Atlanta.

"We strongly encourage interested individuals and groups to give us feedback on our efforts to modernize and reform the federal meat and poultry inspection system. The comments and suggestions from the hearings will be crucial to the agency as we move forward with our inspection reform efforts," Espy said. "We are seeking as much participation as possible from those representing a wide spectrum of views."

FSIS is implementing the inspection reform plan ordered by Espy under two tracks. Track I of the plan consists of an immediate program to maximize the performance of the current meat and poultry inspection system. The cornerstone of Track I is a program to reduce pathogens. Track II consists of the development of a regulatory program for the future.

- Requesting an additional \$8 million in the 1994 USDA budget to fund the start of a strategic plan for meat inspection reform, including the acceleration of the two-track pathogen reduction plan.

- Ordering an inspection crack-down on meat plants across the nation, based on surprise reviews of in-plant inspection systems. As a result of this crack-down, Espy ordered 30 plants closed temporarily until inspection procedures are brought into compliance with requirements. Espy has further directed FSIS to continue these special reviews throughout the year.

- Requiring care and handling labels on meat and poultry products.

- Mandating that the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point system be required in all meat and poultry plants.

- Hiring 160 additional new meat inspectors, and announcing intentions to add 40 more next year.

- Proposing the collection of \$103 million in new user fees from the industry.

- Directing FSIS to develop a legislative proposal by mid-July that would enable USDA to have better trace-back capabilities from processing plants to farms.

- Accelerating efforts to develop rapid microbiological tests for in-plant use.

- Meeting with whistle-blowers, consumer groups, industry representatives, and food poisoning victims to solicit input on all facets of the federal meat and poultry inspection system.

Requests to testify at the Philadelphia hearing should be submitted to Delores Zamichieli at (215) 597-4217. The hearing will be held from 9 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. at the Omni Hotel, 4th and Chestnut Street, in Philadelphia.

Copies of the agency's strategic plan and the USDA pathogen reduction program are available by contacting the FSIS Public Awareness Office, Room 1165 South Building, Washington, D.C. 20250; telephone (202) 690-0351.

Editors note: Philadelphia-area FSIS contact is Anne McGuigan, (215) 597-3778.



Release No. 0475.93

Roberta McCorkle (301) 436-7280

Phil Villa-Lobos (202) 720-4026

USDA PROPOSES TO ALLOW IMPORTS OF CORN SEED FROM NEW ZEALAND

WASHINGTON, June 11--The U.S. Department of Agriculture is proposing to allow seed of Indian corn or maize from New Zealand into the United States for research.

"Seed corn imports from New Zealand would provide U.S. industries with a winter generation of corn seed for research and development purposes," said B. Glen Lee, deputy administrator of plant protection and quarantine with USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

USDA studies indicate that injurious diseases of corn, including downy mildews, the bacteria (*Erwinia chrysanthemi*), and maize leaf-fleck virus, either are not present in New Zealand or would not be spread by corn seed.

"New Zealand is not expected to export a significant amount of corn seed to the United States for feed or industrial use as a result of this proposal," said Lee. "Rather, New Zealand is expected to serve as a location for off-season seed development to be used in research projects."

Current U.S. corn research in New Zealand is valued at \$3 million. Most U.S. companies that grow corn seed in New Zealand export the seed to Europe. They most likely would continue to export seed there if the proposal is implemented.

This amendment would not allow other parts of corn, such as the plant or cob, to be imported from New Zealand.

Notice of the proposal is scheduled for publication in the June 10 Federal Register. Comments will be accepted if they are received on or before July 12. An original and three copies of written comments referring to Docket 92-180-1 should be sent to Chief, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, USDA, Room 804 Federal Building, 6505 Belcrest Road, Hyattsville, Md. 20782.

Comments may be reviewed at USDA, Room 1141-South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C., between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays.



Program Announcements-

Release No. 0456.93

Gene Rosera (202) 720-6734

Charles Hobbs (202) 720-4026

USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET RICE PRICES, MARKETING CERTIFICATE RATES

WASHINGTON, June 8--Under Secretary of Agriculture Eugene Moos today announced the prevailing world market prices of milled rice, loan rate basis, as follows:

--long grain whole kernels:	6.75 cents per pound
--medium grain whole kernels:	6.06 cents per pound
--short grain whole kernels:	6.03 cents per pound
--broken kernels:	3.38 cents per pound

Based upon these milled rice world market prices, loan deficiency payment (LDP) rates, gains from repaying price support loans at the world market price, and marketing certificate rates are:

	Loan Gain and LDP Rate	Marketing Certificate Rate
\$/Cwt.....	
--for long grain:	\$2.03	\$0.48
--for medium grain:	\$1.84	\$0.48
--for short grain:	\$1.84	\$0.49

These announced prices and rates are effective today at 3 p.m. EDT. The next scheduled price announcement will be made June 15 at 3 p.m. EDT.



Release No. 0472.93

Minnie Tom H. Meyer (202) 720-6734

Carol Childers (202) 720-9120

USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET PRICE AND USER MARKETING CERTIFICATE PAYMENT RATES FOR UPLAND COTTON

WASHINGTON, June 10--Randy Weber, acting executive vice president of USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation, today announced the prevailing world market price, adjusted to U.S. quality and location (adjusted world price), for Strict Low Middling (SLM) 1-1/16 inch (micronaire 3.5-3.6 and 4.3-4.9, strength 24-25 grams per tex) upland cotton (base quality) and the coarse count adjustment

(CCA) in effect from 5:00 p.m. today through 3:59 p.m. June 17. The user marketing certificate payment rates announced today are in effect from 12:01 a.m. Friday, June 11 through midnight Thursday, June 17.

The Agricultural Act of 1949, as amended, provides that the AWP may be further adjusted if: (a) the AWP is less than 115 percent of the current crop year loan rate for base quality upland cotton, and (b) the Friday through Thursday average price quotation for the lowest-priced U.S. growth as quoted for Middling (M) 1-3/32 inch cotton, C.I.F. northern Europe (USNE price) exceeds the NE price. The maximum allowable adjustment is the difference between the USNE price and the NE price.

A further adjustment to this week's calculated AWP may be made in accordance with this provision. The calculated AWP is 85 percent of the 1992 upland cotton base quality loan rate, and the USNE price exceeds the NE price by 1.38 cents per pound. Following are the relevant calculations:

I.	Calculated AWP	44.74 cents per pound
	1992 Base Loan Rate	52.35 cents per pound
	AWP as a Percent of Loan Rate	85
II.	USNE Price	59.80 cents per pound
	NE Price	-58.42 cents per pound
	Maximum Adjustment Allowed	1.38 cents per pound

Based on a consideration of the U.S. share of world exports, the current level of cotton export sales and cotton export shipments, and other relevant data, no further adjustment to this week's calculated AWP will be made.

This week's AWP and coarse count adjustment are determined as follows:

Adjusted World Price

NE Price	58.42
Adjustments:	
Average U.S. spot market location	11.82
SLM 1-1/16 inch cotton	1.55
Average U.S. location	0.31
Sum of Adjustments	- 13.68
Calculated AWP	44.74
Further AWP adjustment	- 0 .
ADJUSTED WORLD PRICE	44.74 cents/lb.

Coarse Count Adjustment

NE Price	58.42
NE Coarse Count Price	- 53.82
	4.60
Adjustment to SLM 1-1/32 inch cotton	- 3.95
COARSE COUNT ADJUSTMENT.....	0.65 cents/lb.

Because the AWP is below the 1991 and 1992 base quality loan rates of 50.77 and 52.35 cents per pound, respectively, the loan repayment rate during this period is equal to the AWP, adjusted for the specific quality and location plus applicable interest and storage charges. The AWP will continue to be used to determine the value of upland cotton that is obtained in exchange for commodity certificates.

The USNE current price has exceeded the NE current price by more than 1.25 cents per pound for four consecutive weeks and the AWP has not exceeded 130 percent of the 1992 crop year base quality loan rate in any week of the 4-week period. As a result, the current user marketing certificate payment rate is 0.89 cents per pound. This rate is applicable during the Friday through Thursday period for bales opened by domestic users and for cotton contracts entered into by exporters for delivery prior to Sept. 30, 1993. Relevant data are summarized below:

Week	For the Friday through Thursday Period Ending	USNE Current Price	NE Current Price	USNE Current Minus NE Current	Current User Marketing Certificate Payment Rate 1/
		cents per pound	
1	May 20, 1993	63.60	60.22	3.38	2.13
2	May 28, 1993	62.95	59.78	3.17	1.92
3	June 3, 1993	62.19	59.74	2.45	1.20
4	June 10, 1993	61.50	59.36	2.14	0.89

1/ USNE current price minus NE current price minus 1.25 cents.

If the USNE forward price exceeds the NE forward price by more than 1.25 cents per pound for four consecutive weeks and the AWP does not exceed 130 percent of the 1993 crop year base quality loan rate in any week of the 4-week period, a forward user marketing certificate will be issued. This rate is applicable during the Friday through Thursday period for cotton contracted by exporters for delivery after Sept. 30, 1993. The USNE forward price has not exceeded the NE forward price by more than 1.25 cents per pound for four consecutive weeks; therefore, the forward user marketing certificate payment rate is zero. Relevant data are summarized below:

Week	For Friday through Thursday Period Ending	USNE Forward Price	NE Forward Price	USNE Forward Minus NE Forward	Forward User Marketing Certificate Payment Rate 1/
		cents per pound	
1	May 20, 1993	60.80	59.51	1.29	0.04
2	May 28, 1993	60.00	58.85	1.15	0 2/
3	June 3, 1993	59.88	58.63	1.25	0 2/
4	June 10, 1993	59.80	58.42	1.38	0 2/

1/ USNE forward price minus NE forward price minus 1.25 cents.

2/ USNE forward price must exceed NE forward price by 1.25 cents per pound for four consecutive weeks before a forward certificate payment is applicable.

Next week's AWP, CCA and user marketing certificate payment rates will be announced on Thursday, June 17.

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Media Advisory-

Release No. 0469.93
Leslie Parker (202) 720-2798

USDA/1890 NATIONAL SCHOLAR RECIPIENTS TO VISIT USDA

WASHINGTON, June 10--Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy and officials of the 1890 historically black land-grant institutions will meet the recipients of the 1993 U.S. Department of Agriculture/1890 National Scholars Program to commend them for their exceptional academic achievements.

The ceremony will take place at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, June 22, in Rm. 107-A of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Administration Bldg., The Mall.

The USDA/1890 National Scholars Program is the highest Federal honor bestowed upon graduating high school seniors pursuing an undergraduate degree in agriculture, food or natural resource sciences at the land-grant colleges and universities.

As a part of the National Scholar's program, USDA will provide each student in the program with full tuition, fees, books, a personal computer and software, employment and employee benefits for each year for four years while pursuing a bachelor's degree. Each scholarship is valued at between \$15,000 and \$22,000 per student per year. The institutions will provide the recipients with room and board for each year.



Release No. 0470.93
John Witzig (202) 720-2127

USDA CHERRY PRODUCTION REPORT POSTPONED

WASHINGTON, June 10--The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service will delay publication of the "Cherry Production" report because cool spring weather prevailing in the Great Lake States has slowed cherry crop development.

The report, originally scheduled for release at 3 p.m. on June 17, has been rescheduled for 3 p.m. on Friday, July 2.

